

Woman Repeats Gunson Charge At Police Trial

**Billy Howard Declares Again
She Gave Money and
Other Gifts to Detectives
as Pay for Protection**

Tighe Case Is Postponed

**Patrolmen Held in \$1,000
Bail Each for Alleged
Assault at Polo Grounds**

Trial of John J. Gunson, a former plainclothes officer on Inspector Dominick Henry's vice squad, was resumed at Police Headquarters yesterday before First Deputy Commissioner John A. Leach, Second Deputy Commissioner John Daly and Special Deputy Commissioner Dr. Carleton Simon, in charge of the narcotic division. Gunson is charged with having accepted money to protect disorderly women and with having failed to report an alleged illegal house. Rebecca Meloyda, known along Broadway as Billie Howard, was on the stand. She was the complaining witness on a similar charge against Gunson, in which Judge Rosalsky, in General Sessions, ordered a verdict of acquittal.

While evidence in Gunson's case was being heard, Patrolmen William Boudereau and Frank Meedhamer were held in \$1,000 bail each for the grand jury by Magistrate Simpson, in Washington Heights Court, after they had pleaded not guilty to charge of felonious assault. James A. S. Carpenter, an advertising agent of 75 Sherman Avenue, is the complainant against the men. He alleges that they struck him at the Polo Ground on August 8.

Tighe Gets Postponement

Charles F. Tighe, the detective who is alleged to have assaulted eight persons in a raid on a Ninth Avenue saloon, obtained an adjournment of his trial when he appeared before Deputy Commissioner Leach yesterday. Tighe's attorney asked for the adjournment so that the accused man could dispose of the cases pending against him in General Sessions and Special Sessions, and the trial was postponed subject to call by Commissioner Leach, who said he would communicate with Commissioner Enright.

Patrolman Charles Herald also appeared in the trial room at headquarters yesterday to answer a charge of conduct unbecoming an officer. He is alleged to have assaulted a woman while he was intoxicated. Herald's arresting officer was not present in court yesterday on account of illness. When he recovers the trial will be resumed.

The testimony of Billie Howard was featured by frequent tilts between Eugene F. McGee, counsel for Gunson, and Mrs. Grace Humiston, who is Miss Howard's lawyer. Frequently Mr. McGee appealed to the commissioners to restrain Mrs. Humiston. Mr. McGee also had difficulty with the witness.

Billie again told the story of her relations with Gunson, and said that she had given \$50 to him in 1917. She also

told of other presents she says she gave him. Mr. McGee asked her whether she had received any money from Assistant District Attorney James E. Smith for her connection with the case. She denied this emphatically. Rose Gonzalez, or "Spanish Rose," also was a witness yesterday. She told of the transaction in which Miss Howard alleges she gave Gunson \$50. Rose admitted that she recently had conferred with District Attorney Swann regarding the reduction of bail on a charge which is pending against her. The bail was reduced from \$200 to \$1,000. The witness denied that she had been advised by the District Attorney to plead guilty so that she could get a suspended sentence and go to her home in Porto Rico. In reply to questions, she said that she had been discharged ten times and convicted six times. Every time she paid, she said, she got off.

In the trial of Patrolman Boudereau, of 153 West 123d Street, attached to the East 126th Street station, and Patrolman Meedhamer, of 132 East 109th Street, attached to the West Forty-seventh Street station, the complainant, testified that he had apologized when Meedhamer remonstrated with him for accidentally striking against him. Carpenter was seated behind the patrolman, who was in plainclothes, at the Polo Grounds. He said that the patrolman then stood up and struck him in the face, first with the fist and then with a blackjack, and declared that Meedhamer continued the assault when he was down on the ground. Neither Carpenter nor other witnesses testified that Boudereau had actually struck Carpenter.

The defendant testified that Boudereau, who was not in uniform, came up in the midst of the trouble and questioned Meedhamer's authority. The latter showed his badge and Boudereau followed as Meedhamer led Carpenter from the grounds. Carpenter said his nose was broken and that he pleaded with the patrolman to get a taxi to drive him to the station. Boudereau later left Carpenter in Meedhamer's charge and disappeared. At 155th Street and St. Nicholas Avenue, Carpenter testified, Meedhamer boarded a patrol wagon and left him standing in the street. Alexander P. Gazollo, of 319 East 106th Street, a vendor, testified that Carpenter was handcuffed brutally. He said he followed the patrolmen and Carpenter to 135th Street.

Joseph D. Abate and Joseph Crocca, two soldiers from Fox Hills Hospital, said they had witnessed the assault at the Polo Grounds and that they heard Meedhamer turn around and say, "Why don't you keep your feet off my coat?"

"Why don't you get a box seat if you are so particular?" they testified Carpenter answered.

The soldiers testified that they saw Meedhamer smash Carpenter in the face and hit him a number of times with a blackjack. Boudereau did nothing, they said. Boudereau took the stand and said that when the fight started he tried to keep back the crowd and did not see what happened. He said he saw Meedhamer with a blackjack in his hand, but did not see him strike Carpenter with it. Boudereau testified he knew Meedhamer. Both patrolmen were on their vacation when the fight occurred.

Magistrate Simpson called the assault on Carpenter "outrageous" and held them each in \$1,000 bail for action by the grand jury.

In the case of Patrolman Herald, he is charged with attacking Mrs. Marian Kubler in her home at 139 East Thirty-ninth Street.

When Herald was arraigned on July 17 before Magistrate Nolan in Yorkville Court, Mrs. Kubler failed to identify him as her assailant. The case was dismissed.

She was unable to identify Herald yesterday at the police trial.

Checks Made Out To Press Club Went Into History Fund

**Trustees' Secretary Admits
He Turned Over \$2,000;
E. P. Howard, President,
Loses Memory on Stand**

Direct testimony showing that checks made out to the order of the New York Press Club had been diverted to another fund was given yesterday in the investigation of the club's affairs that is being conducted by former Supreme Court Justice Peter A. Hendrick, as referee. C. Fred Crosby, secretary of the board of trustees, admitted he had indorsed two checks, each for \$1,000, and turned them in to the World War history fund.

Previous testimony had shown that Crosby had no authority under the club's constitution and bylaws to indorse checks, and also that John J. Wollman, promoter of the history fund, received 60 per cent of the war history fund.

During the course of the hearing U. Francis Duffy, counsel for the petitioners, introduced a check for \$1,000, drawn by Manuel Vargas, fiscal agent of the Mexican government in this country, and made payable to the New York Press Club. It was indorsed by Crosby into the World War history fund. Charles M. Beattie, counsel for the defendant trustees, objected on the ground that it dealt with the affairs of Wollman and did not come within the scope of the investigation.

Mr. Hendrick, after examining the check, said that on the face it appeared as though the check had not been passed through the treasury of the club and had been diverted to another fund. He would, therefore, allow its admission as evidence.

Crosby also admitted he had so indorsed a \$1,000 check, made payable to the New York Press Club by Dr. John A. Harris, Special Deputy Police Commissioner.

Edward Percy Howard, who has been president of the club for the last six years, then was called to the stand. Outside of the fact that he was president of the club Howard could not remember anything connected with the club's affairs. His usual answers to questions were: "I don't know," "I couldn't tell you," and "I don't recollect."

Although his own signature stands at the foot of the contract between the club and Wollman, under which Wollman received 60 per cent of the proceeds of his solicitations, Howard could not remember whether he voted for the contract. Even the minutes of the board of trustees, of which he is a member, failed to refresh his memory.

He was shown a letter he wrote on January 31, 1919, as president of the club, to the chairman of the board of trustees, in which he stated the second mortgage of \$25,000 had been wiped out. Asked if this were a fact, he replied he couldn't remember.

Two letters written on the club's stationery, and signed Edward Percy Howard, soliciting membership in the club and acknowledging receipt of a check for that purpose, were admitted in evidence, but Howard declared the signature was not his.

**3,000 East Side Toilers
In Film Theaters Strike**

The East Side Motion Picture Theater Attendants' Union yesterday declared a general strike. Many picture houses recently exhibited signs which read "Closed for alterations." Yesterday most of these reopened with non-union attendants.

It was said the strike will affect twenty East Side theaters. Three thousand union employees are affected. The union involved is Local 10,920 of the American Federation of Labor.

Carl Neustadt, of the strikers' committee, said last night that picketing had been resorted to at the New Fourteenth Street Theater, Fourteenth Street and Second Avenue; St. Mark's Theater, Eighth Street and Second Avenue; Windsor Theater, Delancey Street, near the Bowery; Grand Street Theater, in Grand, near Clinton Street, and the Clinton Theater, Clinton Street, near Delancey.

Road's Head Gives His Opinion of Erie Shopmen's Action

**F. D. Underwood Explains
Repair Plants Are Located
at Galion, Ohio, and
Marion Is Transfer Point**

F. D. Underwood, president of the Erie Railroad, declared yesterday that the company's railroad repair shops as a whole will not be operated under private management. He was commenting on the organization of the Railway Service Company at Marion, Ohio, to take over the operation of the shops at that center.

"It is a misnomer," said the head of the Erie, "to call the plant at Marion a shop in the sense in which that word is commonly used. The actual shop is at Galion, twenty miles east of Marion. Marion is purely a transfer point, with a round house force which in normal times numbers more than 100 men and which now has a reduced force of about 400 men."

At Marion an association of business men voluntarily offered to undertake the work at that point and its assistance was gladly accepted by the Erie Railroad. The Erie Railroad is not acting in connection with any one as to the carrying out of its local affairs.

"Under the stress of war and during the period of Federal administration men were taken on without physical examination and without examination as to capacity. With the return to normal conditions the Erie Railroad reinstated rules requiring certain classes of its employees, including shop crafts, to take a physical examination and when necessary to work Sundays and holidays without penalized overtime."

"Some shopmen objected to the conditions and declined to take physical examinations or report for Sunday work without penalized overtime. They were given time to reconsider. When the time given elapsed their places were filled. Men at Marion failed to respond when called on for Sunday duty, for three Sundays last past. Manifestly, so long as the interests of the public require the moving of Sunday passenger trains and continuous service for perishable freights, it will

be imperative for a small force of men to work Sundays and holidays.

"The loyal efficient mass of Erie employees has been in its service many years. Those who are inviting the controversy relative to physical examination and penalized overtime are mostly those who have come into the Erie service since January 1, 1918."

Mr. Underwood said that there was an inclination to make a "tempest out of a small" in reference to the action taken at Marion. He pointed out that the Erie normal shop forces number 14,000 men, of which about 600 have declined to accept employment under existing rules. Out of 3,125 men examined fifty-nine were rejected for physical reasons.

Colonel Felder explained that he had been approached by counsel for the defendants with the view of reaching a settlement of the controversy with his client.

Acting on Colonel Felder's suggestion, Judge Manton held up the receivership matter for forty-eight hours. He directed the lawyers to file with him additional affidavits covering the jurisdictional point which had been raised by the defendant.

Hurt brought the receivership suit as a minority stockholder. The complaint alleged that Grand Central Palace is losing money at a tremendous rate and that the losses of the two corporations now exceed \$2,000,000. The complaint further alleged that Catts has failed to collect large sums due the corporations.

**Scottish Clans Urged
To Get New Members**

Four hundred delegates to the forty-second annual convention of the Scottish Clans in Masonic Temple, Brooklyn, attended the sessions yesterday. Royal Chief Alexander G. Findlay presided.

Royal Treasurer Duncan MacInnes urged the delegates to work for membership of smaller clans, as he said the prosperity of the order required that all the small clans throughout the country be directly affiliated with the main body. Consideration of proposed amendments to the constitution and bylaws took up a great part of yesterday's session.

The convention is developing a contest between Akron, Ohio, and Detroit, Mich., for the honor of entertaining the next gathering. The question will be decided by vote to-day.

Wives of delegates were guests yesterday at the Daughters of Scotia of Brooklyn at the Shelburne Hotel, Coney Island.

Schools Free to Veterans

The Knights of Columbus nation-wide chain of night schools, which is preparing to enroll more than 100,000 students for the coming school year, will be open to former service men free of charge, because of the great unemployment existing in the ranks of

the war veterans, it was announced yesterday.

The K. of C. school superintendents have been receiving requests to give these men first attention, in order to provide them with technical knowledge which will qualify them for immediate employment with the gradual return to normal industrial conditions.

Thomas F. Smith, Public Administrator, has received a request from the Mercantile Trust Company of San Francisco, asking him to turn over to the company as administrator the property of Peter Vidovich, who died in Bellevue Hospital on September 7, 1920, after being taken off the Overland Limited of the New York Central Railroad.

Vidovich, at the time he was taken to the hospital, had all the appearance of being destitute. His clothing was threadbare and the physicians said he was poorly nourished.

After his death the hospital authorities found in his clothing \$54,000 in Liberty bonds, receipts from three banks representing deposits of \$26,500 and deeds to property in Alaska, where, it was learned, Vidovich had been a gold miner. He also carried jewelry.

Vidovich left a will which has been offered for probate in San Francisco. In the document he provided liberally for relatives in Jugoslavia, of which he was a native.

John M. Vidovich, a nephew, is contesting the will and in that proceeding the Mercantile Trust Company of San Francisco has been appointed administrator. As soon as the necessary legal formalities are fulfilled Public Administrator Smith will transfer the property of Vidovich to the trust company.

Kin Seek Riches of Man Who Died as a Pauper

**Contest Begun Over Wealth
Concealed in the Threadbare
Clothes of Ex-Miner**

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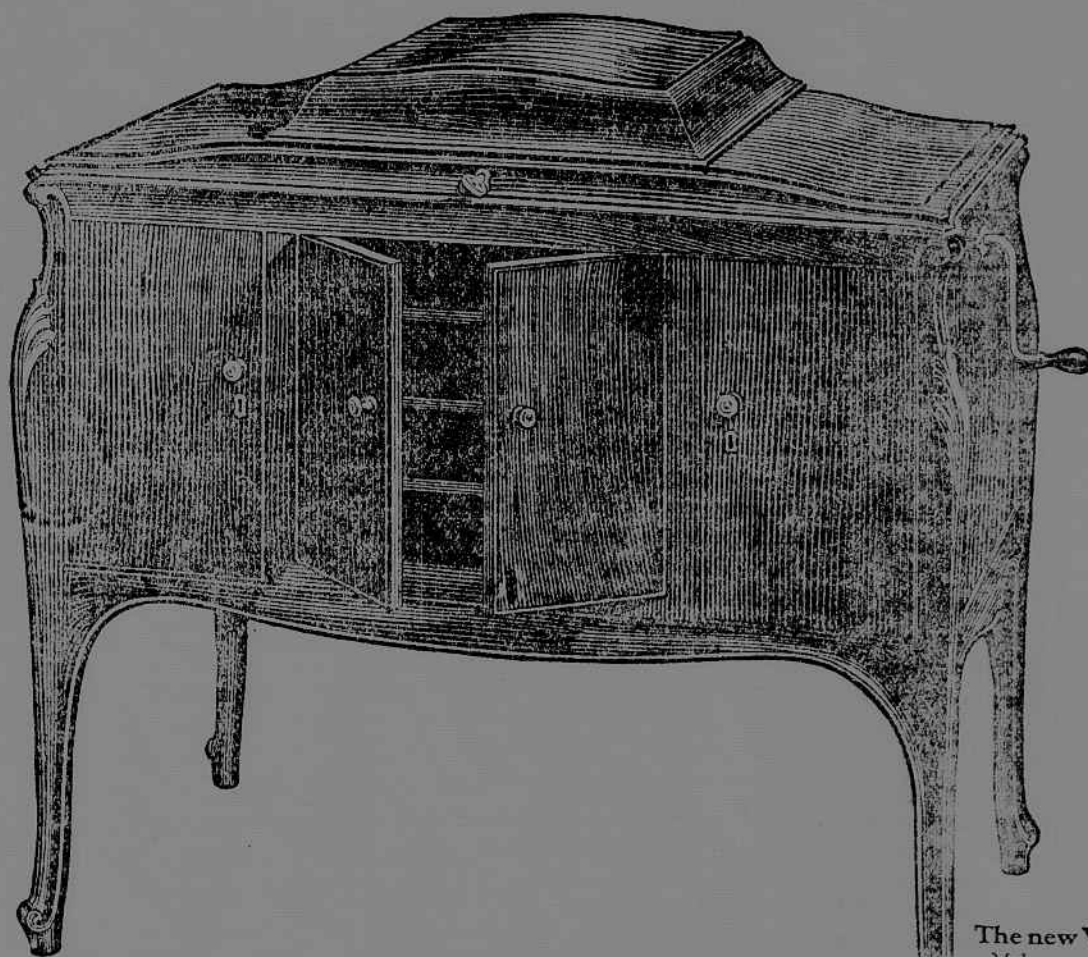
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